

NCI FUNDING POLICY FOR FY 2010 RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT (RPG) AWARDS (05/25/2011)

INTRODUCTION

The National Cancer Institute conducts and supports research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs with respect to the cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer, rehabilitation from cancer, and the continuing care of cancer patients and the families of cancer patients. For more information or to view the Institute's mission statement, please go to the NCI website: <http://www.cancer.gov/aboutnci>

BUDGET DATA

NCI's FY 2011 appropriation of \$5.059 billion reflects a \$45 million decrease from FY 2010. With this reduced budget, NCI's first priority is to fund as many new Research Project Grants (RPGs) as possible – especially to our new investigators – to enable our grantees to pursue innovative scientific research. Information on the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriation can be found on the NIH Office of Budget website: <http://officeofbudget.od.nih.gov/gbi.html>.

FUNDING

STRATEGY

In FY 2011, NCI will not publish RPG paylines. Individual consideration of a broad range of competing applications will be the hallmark of NCI's selection process. Peer review evaluation of scientific merit will remain the primary consideration in these funding decisions, which will be made by NCI Scientific Program Leaders (SPL) following discussions with Program Staff. The NCI SPL will give special consideration to applications that fill a significant gap in the cancer research portfolio or propose an especially novel or promising scientific approach.

GUIDELINES

Non-Competing Awards

Consistent with the NIH policy published in the NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts on April 25, 2011 ([NOT-OD-11-068](#)), NCI will issue both modular and categorical (non-modular) RPG awards at 3 percent below the FY 2010 award level. This requires a reduction to previously established commitments.

Categorical non-competing grants that received a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) in their committed levels will be reduced by 6%. This reduction removes the 3% COLA from the committed level and further reduces the award by an additional 3%. Categorical grants that did not receive a COLA will only be reduced by 3%. The commitments for modular grants do not include a COLA, so the reduction for those grants will be 3%.

This policy does not apply to SBIR/STTRs. No reductions will be applied to those grants.

Competing Awards

- **Traditional Research Grants (R01) & Exploratory Development Grants (R21s)**

Although there will be no guaranteed paylines, with only rare exceptions Traditional (R01) and Exploratory Development (R21) applications up to the 7th percentile will be funded this fiscal

year. Individual applications beyond the 7th percentile will be considered for funding on a case-by case basis by the SPL as described in the “Strategy” section above.

- **New Investigators**

NCI has a strong commitment to new investigators. R01 applications from new investigators, both early stage and more senior, that receive scores up to the 10th percentile will be treated like those from experienced investigators receiving scores up to the 7th percentile. The SPL will discuss applications above the 10th percentile to identify additional selections. The current definition of new R01 investigators can be found on the NIH Office of Extramural Research website at: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#N4>.

NCI will give added consideration to investigators who are in an early stage of their research careers. The definition of Early Stage Investigators can be found at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#E>

- **Program Projects (P01s)**

All P01 applications will be considered for funding on a case-by-case basis by the SPL. This has been NCI’s policy for many years.

- **Small Grants (R03s) & AREA Grants (R15)**

Most of the Small (R03) and AREA (R15) grant applications up to the priority score of 25 will be funded. Applications with scores beyond that may be selected for funding on a case-by-case basis.

- **Large Dollar Amount R01s (\$700,000 or more in direct cost requested in any year)**

All Large R01s will be selected on a case-by-case basis by the SPL. This has been NCI’s policy for many years.

- **Request for Applications (RFAs)**

NCI is committed to the review of applications submitted in response to RFAs previously announced and solicited for competition in FY 2011. Success rates for RFAs will depend on the scientific merit and programmatic priority of each application, the number of applications submitted, and the amount of funds available, but the NCI does not consider it obligatory to use all funds set aside for any RFA. Please consult the Program Director listed on your summary statement if you have questions.

- **Amended Applications (all mechanisms)**

Amended applications submitted for the February/March, 2011 receipt dates (September 2011 NCAB), will be considered for funding under FY 2012 budget plans, which are not yet determined and may be different from the FY 2011 announced levels. FY 2012 begins on October 1, 2011.

- **Policy Reductions (all mechanisms)**

During FY 2011, competing renewals (type-2s) will be funded on average at the current level and the new grants (type-1s) will be funded on average at a 17% reduction from the Initial Review Group recommended level. Any competing renewals that were awarded under the reduction policy of 5% below current while the Institute was under the Continuing Resolution will be restored to current level. The reduction for new grants under the CR remains unchanged. Thus, no restoration for type-1 awards made under the CR will be necessary.